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Missouri's jobless rate rises slightly in December, but remained low in 2000

JEFFERSON CITY -- Missouri's unemployment rate increased to 3.2 percent in December, two-tenths of a percentage point above the revised November rate, as a result of seasonal employment declines and the effects of unseasonably cold weather.

Overall, Missouri's unemployment rate remained relatively low in 2000, averaging approximately 2.8 percent for the year despite slight seasonal increases in the fourth quarter.

Total employment decreased by more than 10,500 in December as weather and other seasonal factors continued to affect employment in weather-sensitive industries. More than 96,000 Missourians were estimated to have been jobless in December, while more than 2.8 million were working. Over the year, total employment increased by more than 31,000, and unemployment rose by more than 18,000.

Total non-farm payroll employment decreased by nearly 8,000 jobs in December in spite of a 4,800-job gain in the retail sector. Changes in industry divisions in December were mostly seasonal. Retail trade posted the largest gain as the holiday shopping season peaked. Over the month, job gains in federal government were mainly in the postal service. The largest seasonal decline occurred in construction, down by more than 10,000 jobs, and business services, which lost well over 3,000 jobs.

During 2000, non-farm payroll employment gains averaged 8,500 monthly, compared with an average monthly gain of more than 11,500 for all of 1999, indicating a general slowdown in economic activity that started in the second half of 2000.

In the goods-producing sector, construction employment decreased by more than 9,500 jobs, while manufacturing employment dipped by nearly 9,000 jobs, with the largest decrease occurring in electronic equipment, which grew by 3,800 jobs.

In the service-producing sector, service industries collectively grew by nearly 23,000 jobs, retail trade employment increased by nearly 5,500 jobs, and the finance, insurance and real estate industries grew by 2,500 jobs. Annually, total government employment, including public schools and colleges, went up by 8,500 jobs.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (DEC 2000), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (OCT AND NOV 2000), AND YEAR AGO (DEC 1999)

	DEC 2000	NOV 2000	OCT 2000	DEC 1999		DEC 2000	NOV 2000	OCT 2000	DEC 1999
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	Atchison	2.0	2.0	1.6	1.4
MISSOURI	3.2	2.9	3.1	2.7	Audrain	2.8	2.6	2.9	1.9
ST. LOUIS MSA	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.0	Barton	2.5	2.0	2.2	2.2
Franklin	4.4	2.8	3.3	2.9	Bates	4.9	4.1	3.8	3.5
Jefferson	3.8	2.5	2.7	2.5	Benton	6.9	6.0	5.7	5.8
Lincoln	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.8	Caldwell	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.7
St. Charles	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.7	Carroll	3.2	3.6	2.9	3.2
St. Louis County	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.1	Cedar	4.1	3.5	2.8	3.3
Warren	3.6	3.1	2.9	3.0	Chariton	4.4	5.1	5.5	3.5
St. Louis City	5.9	5.5	6.3	5.1	Clark	4.5	3.0	4.1	4.8
KANSAS CITY MSA	2.9	2.9	3.1	2.5	Cooper	3.6	3.3	2.5	2.3
Cass	2.6	2.2	2.5	2.1	Crawford	6.3	4.8	5.7	4.6
Clay	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.7	Dade	4.1	3.6	3.9	2.9
Clinton	2.6	2.2	2.2	2.5	Dallas	5.7	5.4	6.6	3.7
Jackson	3.3	3.1	3.6	2.8	Daviess	4.0	2.9	2.5	4.0
Lafayette	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.9	DeKalb	3.2	2.1	1.9	1.9
Platte	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.6	Dent	6.8	5.8	6.3	4.7
Ray	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.6	Douglas	7.3	6.8	5.6	4.5
SPRINGFIELD MSA	2.3	2.1	2.2	1.9	Dunklin	6.1	4.8	4.6	4.3
Christian	2.2	1.9	2.0	1.8	Gasconade	3.8	2.7	2.7	2.1
Greene	2.2	2.1	2.2	1.8	Gentry	2.9	2.4	2.5	2.1
Webster	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.9	Grundy	2.8	2.5	3.3	1.9
JOPLIN MSA	3.0	3.0	3.5	2.5	Harrison	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.4
Jasper	2.8	2.7	3.1	2.4	Henry	3.4	2.9	3.0	3.0
Newton	3.2	3.5	4.2	2.8	Hickory	7.7	6.2	6.7	5.5
COLUMBIA MSA	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.9	Holt	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3
Boone	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.9	Howard	3.8	3.4	2.9	2.6
ST. JOSEPH MSA	3.2	2.9	3.1	2.7	Iron	7.5	6.3	6.9	6.2
Andrew	2.9	2.8	2.4	2.5	Johnson	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.2
Buchanan	3.2	2.9	3.2	2.8	Knox	5.0	3.7	3.4	2.6
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	3.1	2.5	2.5	1.5	Laclede	4.4	3.8	3.7	3.5
Adair	2.6	2.3	2.3	1.3	Lewis	3.1	2.5	2.4	2.6
Schuyler	5.8	3.8	3.3	3.1	Linn	7.0	8.2	10.2	5.3
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	4.6	4.4	4.5	3.7	Livingston	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.1
Butler	4.4	4.0	4.1	3.6	McDonald	3.4	3.6	4.3	3.0
Carter	5.4	5.2	4.2	4.4	Macon	6.5	5.8	4.4	3.4
Ripley	4.8	5.3	6.1	3.5	Madison	6.5	5.5	5.9	4.8
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	5.5	4.3	3.4	5.0	Mercer	3.2	2.4	2.3	2.7
Camden	5.4	4.2	3.3	5.0	Monroe	4.6	4.3	4.3	3.5
Miller	5.6	4.3	3.4	5.0	Montgomery	3.6	3.2	3.4	2.9
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	3.7	3.2	3.4	3.1	Morgan	6.7	5.2	3.8	3.8
Bollinger	4.5	3.8	4.3	3.4	Nodaway	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.8
Cape Girardeau	2.5	2.1	2.5	2.4	Ozark	5.6	3.9	3.8	5.2
Mississippi	7.8	7.0	5.7	4.4	Pemiscot	7.9	7.0	6.5	5.9
New Madrid	4.8	4.1	3.9	4.4	Perry	2.3	2.0	2.1	1.7
Scott	4.0	3.4	3.8	3.3	Pettis	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.6
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	2.2	1.9	2.2	1.8	Pike	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.2
Callaway	2.2	2.1	2.1	1.8	Polk	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.5
Cole	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.5	Pulaski	5.7	4.9	4.9	5.8
Moniteau	2.5	2.4	2.5	1.7	Putnam	4.0	3.5	3.0	3.2
Osage	4.5	2.6	4.1	3.5	Randolph	3.9	3.9	3.3	2.6
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.4	Reynolds	7.2	6.3	6.5	3.8
Howell	3.5	3.3	3.7	3.2	St. Clair	4.1	3.7	3.6	4.6
Oregon	2.4	2.6	3.4	3.1	Ste. Genevieve	3.5	2.3	2.7	2.4
Shannon	5.6	6.0	4.9	4.8	Saline	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.1
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.8	Scotland	2.9	2.1	1.7	3.2
Barry	3.3	3.2	2.7	3.0	Shelby	6.7	5.9	5.0	5.9
Lawrence	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.6	Stoddard	5.5	4.6	4.1	4.1
MARION-RALLS LMA	3.9	3.4	3.7	3.1	Stone	5.3	4.2	3.2	5.0
Marion	3.7	3.2	3.7	2.9	Sullivan	2.5	2.1	2.2	1.8
Ralls	4.4	3.9	3.8	3.5	Taney	3.2	2.3	2.2	2.7
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.3	Texas	6.5	6.2	5.8	7.8
Maries	2.9	2.2	2.7	2.9	Vernon	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.2
Phelps	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.1	Wayne	8.1	7.5	7.2	6.7
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	6.9	5.5	5.8	5.9	Worth	4.1	3.6	4.2	5.8
St. Francois	6.5	5.2	5.6	5.7	Wright	7.8	6.8	6.0	4.5
Washington	7.8	6.2	6.3	6.4					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.
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